



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, December 16, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-0058)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Vice Chair Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Patricia Curry and Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang

Call to Order. (13-5783)

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of December 16, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-5784)

Self-introductions were made.

Agenda Items 2 and 3 were taken after Agenda Item 5 when a quorum was established.

2. Approval of the December 16, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-5785)

On motion of Commissioner Becky Shevlin, seconded by Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, (Vice Chairs Friedman and Olivas and Commissioners Curry and Kang being absent), this item was approved.

DRAFT

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of December 2, 2013. (13-5786)

Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, (Vice Chairs Friedman and Olivas and Commissioners Curry and Kang being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for December 16, 2013 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (13-5787)

Chair Berger stated that there was nothing to report and wished everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year. The next Commission meeting will take place on January 13, 2014.

5. DCFS Director's report for December 16, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-5788)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **Approximately, 2,000 DCFS Children's Social Workers were recently on strike for six days. DCFS Managers were deployed to staff the hotline and Command Post. Law enforcement was very helpful in assisting with physical and sexual abuse calls coming into the hotline during this time. Law enforcement conducted wellness checks on behalf of DCFS. The Probation Department also assisted in sending staff to check on youth.**
- **New DCFS Staff that have completed the Children's Social Worker (CSW) Academy currently have a partial caseload; soon they will be receiving a full case load. An additional 200 staff members have been approved to start later in 2014. The target is to have lower caseloads closer to 20 per CSW in the Continuing Services Area. The process of hiring new staff had been slow partly due to the implementation and assessment of the new CSW Academy. Now that the academy has had positive results, the hiring process should be quicker. The goal is to have a new CSW Academy class of 35 every month.**
- **It was apparent during the strike, that a better communication system is needed in terms of providing information to providers in emergency situations. The automation to send information is in progress; however, had not been implemented at the time of the strike. DCFS has a disaster plan in place; however, it is partly dependent on the staffing level. In terms of the level of new cases coming into the Department during the strike, cases were prioritized.**

- Representatives from *Google* are meeting with Judge Michael Nash, Dr. Charles Sophy, Director of DCFS Bureau of Clinical Resources, and Information Technology staff to identify ways to improve the data monitoring of psychotropic medication.
- The Board of Supervisors approved a contract ([Item No. 17 of 11/19/13](#)) to develop a pilot for a new risk-assessment tool. The hope is for the new assessment tool to include automation.
- iPhones were purchased for all of the Continuing Service staff. The use of technology is being considered for inclusion in the new CSW Academy curriculum.
- Helen Berberian was honored at the 7th Annual Armenian American Public Service Employees Association Gala as an exemplary leader in the community.

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. Presentation by the Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Children and Family Services (DCFS) on the Youth Placement Stabilization Teams funded through Senate Bill 82, Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013.
 - Bryan Mershon, Ph. D., Acting Deputy Director, Children's System of Care, DMH
 - Helen Berberian, Executive Assistant to Philip Browning, Director, DCFS (13-5789)

Mr. Mershon distributed a PowerPoint presentation and reported the following:

- The Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act of 2013 became law on May 16th 2013, through Senate Bill 82 (SB 82). Through a competitive selection process, various regions within the State will be submitting proposals for delivering services specified in SB 82. The deadline to submit proposals to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission is January 7, 2014. The funding for services is through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

- The information being presented is the current thinking and direction of what the County's proposal will be. In October, 2013, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) announced the County's participation in the proposal process.
- The main focus of the SB 82 funding is increasing capital capacity and expanding programs for enhancing the number of mental health crisis personnel. Other areas of focus include:
 - increasing access to crisis intervention and stabilization services;
 - augmenting appropriate linkage to crisis services;
 - reducing cost associated with expensive in-patient and emergency care, and;
 - developing crisis placement stabilization services for DCFS involved youth.
- The State's overall goal of SB 82 is to provide mobile crisis support teams and triage personnel. The County's proposal is focusing on establishing crisis stabilization teams with a portion being Youth Placement Stabilization (YPS) Teams. The YPS concept was developed through a partnership between DMH and DCFS. The purpose of the teams would be to fill the gap in triage services for youth, with an open DCFS case, who are experiencing a high number of placement disruptions, and do not meet criteria for involuntary psychiatric hospitalization. The intent of the YPS Teams would be to stabilize the youth in their current or new placement. The target population identified is youth that have experienced at least three placement disruptions based on the data from fiscal year 2011-12. Target Population includes:
 - Youth awaiting placement at DCFS Command Post
 - Youth identified through the High Risk Services Division of DCFS
 - Youth at imminent risk of removal from home or residential placement (i.e., have received a seven (7) day notice of removal)
 - Youth under dual supervision with DCFS and Probation (241.1 Youth)
- The eligibility criteria include:
 - Youth ages zero to twenty one years of age
 - Youth with open child welfare case with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
 - Children/youth who have experienced three or more placements within 24 months due to behavioral health needs
 - Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) eligible youth

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- Individuals that meet medical necessity for specialty mental health services
 - The YPS Teams would include one licensed Mental Health Professional and one unlicensed Mental Health Service Provider. Currently the structure would consist of 8 teams, approximately one team per Service Planning Area (SPA) and with the flexibility for teams to work in the SPAs that are in most need. At a given time, the YPS Teams would be working with a total of approximately 100 youth; however, the intent would be that the Teams quickly connect the youth to services.

The Commission expressed concern that having these teams in place lacks consistency and adversely places an additional layer of trauma for the youth to undergo. The ideal situation would be to have a team that stays with the youth throughout their care under the Department (DCFS/Probation).

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the presenters responded with the following:

- Mr. Mershon explained that Probation youth was not included in the identified target population mainly because the experience is that movement in placement for this population is not as high. However, this area will be further evaluated and considered for inclusion in the proposal.

To address concerns regarding YPS Teams providing an inconsistent experience for the youth, the hope is that the YPS team acts as a transition in helping establish an ongoing group that stays with the youth.

Christy Malder, DMH added that her experience in working with youth that bounce between the Command Post and Regional offices is that these youth do not have a team in place. The YPS Team would establish stability. Teams include formal and informal supports.

- Ms. Berberian addressed the Commission's concerns and explained that work with DMH on SB 82 was initiated partly because it was identified that preventive mediation before placement disruption was missing and furthermore, there were no team type of support to keep the youth on track. The work of the YPS Team will involve talking to the youth prior to the disruption in placement and will provide a better opportunity for permanency planning. Some of the referrals for the YPS Teams will come from the High Risk Database.

- **Mr. Mershon clarified that the funding is part of MHSA; however, is new funding that is separate from the 3-Year MHSA Plan. The funding is from the State's MHSA funds. The anticipated SB 82 total funding is \$9 million for Los Angeles County with Children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) accounting for approximately \$1.2 million of the total. Staffing costs would be supported by the revenue generated from the claiming for the EPSDT Medi-Cal services.**
- **Ms. Berberian explained that the YPS model is both reactive and proactive and provides the flexibility to proactively identify children prior to reaching their third placement. The proposed plan is not finalized and can be revised.**
- **Mr. Mershon explained that the proposal would be presented at the next Systems Leadership Team (SLT) meeting. A monthly report will be provided to the State indicating the population that has been triaged. It is understood that the intent of the bill is not to serve the same population for an entire year. In the event that the County does not apply for this funding, the funds would be redistributed to other counties.**

Today's feedback from the Commission will be provided to the DMH Executive Management Team.

- **Ms. Berberian explained that the YPS concept is in an effort to begin replicating the DCFS/DMH Permanency Teams to assist case carrying CSWs in achieving permanency for youth. Additionally, based on a recently received State ACL (All County Letter), a review of youth currently in group homes, for one year or more, will be conducted and reported to the legislature. Findings may identify children, who if taken to a lower level of care, may become destabilized and proactively referred to a YPS Team.**

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-5790)

There were none.

Announcements

8. Announcements for the meeting of December 16, 2013. (13-5791)

There were none.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-5793)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment of the meeting of December 16, 2013. (13-5794)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.